

To: Education Committee

From: Carla A. Ratti, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Date: March 6, 2011

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1105

I would like to express my opposition to the changes proposed to SB 1105. In 2010, the Connecticut General Assembly passed a law that would ensure that those who provide Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services in public schools would have the proper training and credential to do so.

In 2011, the State Department of Education has proposed changes to this legislation that would expand the definition of those who may provide ABA services to "including, but not limited to, persons employed as psychologists, speech therapists and positions requiring certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in special education."

This bill also adds a layer of "supervision/direction" by a designated administrator employed by the board of education to supervise the provision of behavior analysis services. This will only add to the cost of providing services to children with autism.

In summary, I oppose SB 1105 due to the unclear language in the provider expansion definition as well as the inherent cost associated with adding a layer of unnecessary administrative oversight to the provision of ABA services to children with autism.

Thank You.

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